STATEMENT-II

National Health Programme in Uttar Pradesh

(Rs. in lakh)

Schemes	Amount
Malaria Eradication Programme	349.96
Leprosy Eradication Programme	476.13
T.B. Control Programme	442.44
Blindness Control Programme	394.12
Iodine Deficiency Disorder Control Programme	1.16
AIDS Control Programme	371.129

[English]

Erosion of Ganga in West Bengal

2872. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware about the very serious problem of erosion of the banks of the Ganges in the districts of Murshidabad. Nadia. Hooghly and 24 Parganas (N) in West Bengal: and

(b) if so. the steps taken to save the villages and towns affected by the erosion?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) Government of West Bengal has taken up six interaction schemes for execution in Murshidabad district at an estimated cost of Rs.21.29 crore which includes 3 schemes costing more than Rs.1 crore appraised and approved by the Centre. Schemes for the districts of Nadia. Hooghly and 24 Parganas (N) have not been refered to the Centre so far for appraisal.

Family Planning in Villages

2873. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a study conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research shows that traditional healers and trained persons could play a vital role in influencing the villagers to accept one or other method of family planning:

(b) if so. the details thereof: and

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (c). A Pilot study was conducted by Indian Council of Medical Research in 1984-87 in 37 villages of two Primary Health Centres in Muzaffarnagar district of Uttar Pradesh. A total 22 institutionally trained traditional medical practitioners who were resident of the selected villages were provided training for 11 days. The study showed that after two years of intervention by these practitioners there was an increase in the number of acceptors of contraceptives in these villages. However. the male acceptance of contraception remained unchanged and the number of men undergoing Vasectomy declined.

This is only a Pilot study covering a small population. A number of large scale studies focussing on the use of rural practitioners for delivery of family planning services including regular supervision and performance evaluation are essential before the same can be incorporated into the National Family Welfare Programme.

Issue of Passports by RPO, Bangalore

2874. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of passport applications received by the Regional Passport Office at Bangalore during the period January. 1995 to April. 1996 for the issue of new passports and for the renewal of the passports:

(b) the number out of them cleared:

(c) the average time taken for the issue of passports:

(d) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that due to non-receipt of police verification report. there has been inordinate delay in clearing passport applications; and

(e) if so. whether there is any proposal to set up a separate Police Wing in the above passport office to undertake police verifications?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJARAL) : (a) The number of passport applications received by RPO. Bangalore during the period January 1995- April 1996 for the issue of new passports and for the renewal of passports are as follow :

New Passports	118887
Renewals	48919

(b) During the same period. the number of passports cleared out of (a) above and from the pending applications on 31.12.94 are :

New Passports	126197
Renewals	49501

(c) The average time taken to issue a fresh passport by this office is approximately 50-60 days.

(d) and (e). In order to avoid delay. in cases where police verification is not received within 30 days of making a reference. passports are issued by the RPO without waiting any further for a clearance. This procedure. which speeds up the process in the interest